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St. Andrew's Church, Madras

Joint Chaplain.—Rev. Neil Meldrum, M.A., B.D., 2, Victoria Crescent, Egmore.
Kirk Session.—The Chaplain, J. R. Atkinson Esq., W. A. Beardsell Esq., Dr. J. R. Henderson, W. Hutton Esq., W. Lamb Esq., A. C. Puddephatt Esq., R. W. Ross Esq., Capt. A. J. H. Russell, Col. R. Robertson, J. F. Simpson Esq., and W. A. Turner Esq.
Church Officer—Mr. H. Boys, Kirk Villa, Egmore.
Organist and Choirmaster—R. L. Hird Esq., Roundhay, Chetput.
Free School Headmistress—Mrs. Bennet, St. Andrew's Free School.
Dorcas Society Secretary—Mrs. J. R. Atkinson, Goodwood, Kilpauk.
Women's Guild Secretary—Mrs. Turner, The Priory, Mount Road.
Women's Guild Treasurer—Mrs. Ross, College House, Saidapet.
Sunday School Superintendent—H. P. Ashworth Esq., Kalamunda, Nungambakum.
School Visitation Secretary—Mrs. Taylor-Mitchell, Luttrell's Gardens, Kilpauk.
Honorary Auditor—H. P. Ashworth Esq., Nungambakum.

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF ... 6 JUN 1916 MADRAS

Church Notices

SITTINGS AND MAGAZINES—Application for vacant sittings should be made to the Clerk, with whom should also be lodged orders for the Monthly Parish Magazine (Rs. 2 per annum), and the Indian Quarterly, *St. Andrew* (8 annas per annum). To seat holders *Life and Work*, with local Supplement, is supplied free. Copies of the Hymnary, Psalter, and Anthem Book, with or without music, may also be purchased from the Church Clerk.

HOURS OF SERVICE—Divine Service is held on Sundays at 8 A.M. and 6 P.M. Choir Practice on Thursdays at 6-15 P.M.

HOLY COMMUNION—The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is dispensed after evening service on the first Sunday of every quarter, and after morning service on the sixth Sunday of the quarter.

BAPTISM—The Sacrament of Baptism is administered in the Church on Thursday evenings, or on Sundays after the morning service.

FUNERALS—Funerals should be arranged through an Undertaker.

ST. ANDREW'S CEMETERY—St. Andrew's Cemetery is, by Government order, reserved for the burial of *bona fide* members of St. Andrew's Church and Presbyterian soldiers; and the sanction of the Chaplain has to be obtained.

FREE SCHOOL—There is an Industrial Class in connection with the Free School. Orders for towels, dusters, etc., may be sent to Mrs. Atkinson, "Goodwood," Kilpauk, or to the Church Clerk. The money thus earned helps to defray the salary of an extra teacher.

WOMEN'S GUILD—The Women's Guild meets on the first and third Thursdays of every month at 4-30 P.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL at 5 P. M. from January to April and August to December.

Church Notes

Holy Communion.—There were 44 Communicants at Holy Communion on Sunday, May 7th. Holy Communion will again be dispensed at Evening Service on July 9th.

Thanks.—I am greatly indebted to the Rev. W. H. Organe for so readily and willingly doing duty for me during my illness in the end of April. His services on Sunday, April 30th, were very much appreciated indeed by the congregation. May I also take this opportunity of thanking most warmly all the many members of the congregation who made inquiries and who came to see me during my time in hospital.

Mr. K. J. Saunders.—It is not very often that here in Madras we get first hand news from the fighting line in France and so perhaps it was no wonder that an uncommonly large

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congregation gathered together at evening service on May 7th to hear Mr. K. J. Saunders' tell us something of his impressions of the men who make up our brave army. Mr. Saunders is one of the most brilliant of the Y. M. C. A. Secretaries, and in his short time in India he is already looked upon as no mean authority upon Buddhism. He went to France early in the war to do Y. M. C. A. work with the Indian Expeditionary Force and he has come back with very much to tell us. It was a most interesting address he gave us on "The Religious Outlook of the Soldier" and his grave and weighty words upon the Call to the Church will not readily be forgotten.

Church Compound.—For some time now many criticisms have been levelled against the state of the compound in front of the Church, and I suppose they have been deserved though that portion of the compound is not very easy to keep in good order. The Church Clerk, Mr. Boys, has now a scheme on hand which, one hopes will transform a not very beautiful stretch of ground into something more in keeping with the Church. This scheme has been made possible by a very handsome donation of Rs. 100 from a member of the congregation and to him we owe many thanks indeed.

Obituary.—Among those who passed away during the month was Mrs. Bowie, widow of the late Mr. J. W. Bowie, who played such a prominent part in Anglo-Indian life over 15 years ago. Mrs. Bowie had been ailing for some time, but her indomitable spirit kept her active when many another would have been a confirmed invalid. She wore her three score years and ten wonderfully lightly and she had always a cheery smile for those who came to see her. She was a very devoted member of St. Andrews; indeed her memories of Chaplains who have been dead for many a long year were exceptionally fresh and vivid. She passed away very peacefully surrounded by her family. Our sympathy goes out to the mourners, especially to Miss Bowie.

There died very suddenly at Saigon Mr. Adam Bennet of the Asiatic Petroleum Company. Mr. Bennet had been a very interested member of St. Andrew's Church in byegone years and that interest was never allowed to drop. Only the other day we received his usual donation towards his seat rents, and it looks as if the acknowledgment of it could not have reached Saigon before he died. It is very touching to think that almost the last of his acts was that act of kindness and thoughtfulness for the Church he loved so well.

Congratulations.—It is only but right that we should congratulate Mr. F. L. Gordon, the son of Mr. J. D. Gordon and Mrs. Gordon, in his appointment to the Indian Army Reserve of Officers. Mr. Gordon left Madras on Monday, May 15th, to join the Regiment to which he is attached at Murree. Our best wishes go with him.

Women's Mission.—With the coming of the hot weather comes a lull in the activities of the Missionaries as for half of May and the whole of June they seek a cooler clime on the heights. Even Indian parents are unwilling to send their children out in the sun and the school attendance decreases accordingly. Only a few faithful souls among the Zenana teachers and Bible-women continue visiting their houses right through these months.

Three of the schools for Hindu girls have just had their annual inspection. The children seem to enjoy the prospect of an examination and invariably turn out in full force for it. On that day one finds all the irregular attenders—duffers most likely—smilingly confident though one is tempted to wish they had stayed at home. Examinations have no terror yet and failures only shew lack of discernment on the part of the Inspectress. The little Indian girl knows she did all her sums and answered all the questions well—and of course her parents say she is a clever girl and must go on to the next class. Only the teacher and the Superintendent and the Inspectress were not informed of that, and once they understand they will certainly acknowledge her ability to go up higher.

Before closing the schools an interesting function was held in the Georgetown school. Mr. J. F. Simpson presided and Mrs. Meldrum gave away the prizes to the children. The children had looked forward eagerly to this festivity and gave themselves to the acting of their parts in the little concert with keen enjoyment. The ladies of the mission feel deeply indebted to the Guild President and the Guild for their interest and help in this school on which so much money and time and labour has been expended.

Rev. G. S. Vethanayagam.—This month we print a very interesting article, written by the Rev. G. S. Vethanayagam, the Pastor of the St. Andrew's Tamil Church. We commend it to the perusal of all whether they are or are not interested in the Mission work of the Church.

REGISTRAR ... 6 JUN 191 MADRAS

COLLECTIONS, ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

1916		Rs.	A.	P.
April 2nd, Ordinary	...	44	13	9
,, 9th ,,	...	45	13	0
,, 16th ,,	...	58	15	9
,, 21st ,,	...	21	7	0
,, 23rd ,,	...	44	10	0
,, 30th ,,	...	43	14	1
Total	...	259	9	7

CHURCH REGISTER

Burials

" I am the Resurrection and the Life."

(Kilpauk Cemetery)

May 2nd, 1916.—Melvin Henricus, 11 months.

(St. Andrew's Cemetery)

May 9th, 1916.–Frances Mary Bowie, 71 years.

A Trumph of the Faith

Thirty years ago a Christian boy, son of a respected catechist and grandson of a well-known clergyman, was sent to a Mission Boarding School. He studied up to the 4th standard but on account of his unruly and rude character he was dismissed and sent to an industrial school, from which also he was dismissed. Ashamed to return to his parents, he wandered about the Presidency and became a vagabond. Finally he came to Madras where his daring enterprises and bodily strength attracted an Hindu priest, the head of a gang of ruffians. This priest married the youth to a girl of his family and sheltered him in his house. The youth took part in the heathen worship of the family and mixed continually with heathen people. But a spark of Christian truth still lingered in his heart. He often spoke of the folly of Hinduism to his wife and the other members of the priest's family.

In his old age the priest wished to initiate his eldest son to the priestly functions, but the boy spoke of his new convictions—learned from the once-Christian brother-in-law and refused to conform to his father's wishes. When kindly persuasions and arguments failed, the priest beat the boy and to escape this, the boy ran away from home. After some time, out of regard for his father's old age he returned home, and tried to please him by doing the services for the priest's favourite gods and for their worshippers. Among the worshippers were some caste people who would pay from Rs. 5 to Rs. 50 for a handful of mud blessed by the priest. Mantras were said over it and so they believed it would bring great luck to the receivers. Because of this ceremony the priest got the name of Mannuswami மண்ணுசாமி (mud priest). Even wealthy Hindus would come to him to receive this blessed and wonder-working mud.

In his last years the old priest began to meditate on his son's arguments and new convictions. His faith was shaken. One day just a year before his death he went to a Roman Catholic friend and expressed his desire to receive Christian baptism. The friend took him to the Valangunni festival in the Tanjore District. The Roman Catholic Priest suddenly refused to baptise him but requested him to come again the following year with a valuable offering (a globe light) for the Roman Catholic Church. The old priest returned home and not long after was seized with the illness which ended his life. A few days before his death he called his son and the son-in-law who had been born of Christian parents and requested them to read to him from the Bible. After his death on 10th January 1915, the funeral was conducted by the villagers with heathen ceremony. The sons—three married men—had not the courage to do anything with the dead body.

After the priest's death the two shrines were shut up and the idols left to starve. The four families—the families of the three sons and the family of the son-in-law sought Christian baptism and were led to the Pastor of our Indian Tamil Church. He took the missionaries to the spot and there in the priest's house took place the solemn ceremony of giving up all the emblems of heathen worship belonging to the family. The idols, pictures, bottle, holy Ganges water, photographs of the priest and his sons with their religious marks, were laid at the feet of the missionaries while the men prostrated themselves in token of their readiness to receive instruction.

After some time of probation eight souls were baptized in the Tamil Church before the Christian congregation and received their new names. The priest's eldest son at his own request received the name of Paul for he hopes to be a missionary to his village. One of the women was called Esther, but, two of the sons' wives were carried off by their heathen parents lest they too should become Christian. Now other seven souls, including these two wives, who have returned to their husbands, are ready to be baptised. Others too are desirous of being instructed.

The new Christians do not shrink from publishing their good news among the villagers and even the women wish to be taught to read, so that they may pass on the word to their sisters. They even want to remove their *tali*, the Indian symbol of marriage, because it was received in Hindu ceremony. These Christians have many temptations to face and little support from friends for they have still to make Christian friends. They need our constant prayers that they may remain true to their vows and their faith in Christ.

One of the shrines was dedicated to Maury, the goddess of death, who causes small-pox. Another was dedicated to Sri Runganathar—Vishnu. Both were built by the priest himself. Every year five rams were killed for sacrifices. The priest was a famous soothsayer and charm-worker and thought-reader. People spent much money on these in hope of getting their health restored or improving their fortunes. Even Anglo-Indians consulted him about their fortunes.

Though the priest was illiterate he created an alphabet of his own and in it wrote many of his charms. These could be read only by himself. They were written on palmyra leaves with a style and the book of leaves strung together has come into the possession of the missionaries, but the secret interpretation of them has died with their author.

People supplied him with gifts of gold and silver styles with which to write, or gave golden eyes to the gods as thank-offerings. These were removed by the sons and sold to jewellers. Other gifts of gold and robes were also given to the priest by grateful worshippers.

G. S. V.

CHURCH ACCOUNTS

I.—Monthly Statement of Kirk Session Fund Account for April, 1916

Receipts	Rs.	A.	P.	Disbursements	Rs.	A.	P.
By Government Grant	109	0	0	To Church Choir for March 1916 ...	76	0	0
„ Seat Rents	122	0	0	„ „ Estabt. do. ...	187	12	0
„ Church Collections	259	9	7	„ Communion Elements ...	3	2	0
„ Refunds	10	0	0	„ Balance Annual Clothing ...	16	10	0
„ Christmas Subscription List ...	5	0	0	„ Methdist Printing House ...	13	0	0
„ M. M. A. on account Electric Current, 3rd and 4th ...	5	8	0	„ M.E.S. Co. current for Mar. ...	8	12	0
				„ Repair, Choir fan	5	0	0
	511	1	7	„ Padlocks	1	7	3
Balance Debit this Account ...	5	11	6	„ Cash to Free School ...	193	7	10
				„ Miscellaneous	6	10	0
Total Rs ...	516	13	1	Total Rs ...	516	13	1

II.—Monthly Statement of St. Andrew's Free School Account for April, 1916

Receipts	Rs.	A.	P.	Disbursements	Rs.	A.	P.
By Subscriptions	11	0	0	To Teachers and Establishment ...	199	0	0
„ Refund	10	0	0	„ Food	62	8	0
„ Kirk Session Account ...	245	5	9	„ Repair, Sunblinds, etc. ...	4	13	9
Total Rs ...	266	5	9	Total Rs ...	266	5	9

NEIL MELDRUM,
Joint Chaplain.

METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE, MADRAS.